

Appl. No. 10/632,082
Response dated: March 6, 2006
Reply to Office action of December 6, 2005

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated December 6, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-13 and 29-35 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 29-31 have been amended, leaving Claims 1-13 and 29-35 for consideration upon entry of the present amendments and following remarks.

Support for the amendments to the claims can at least be found in the specification, the figures, and the claims as originally filed.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mazis, U.S. Patent No. 4,504,891 (hereinafter "Mazis") in view of Saito, U.S. Patent No. 6,441,874 (hereinafter "Saito"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

For an obviousness rejection to be proper, the Examiner must meet the burden of establishing that all elements of the invention are disclosed in the prior art and that the prior art relied upon, coupled with knowledge generally available in the art at the time of the invention, must contain some suggestion or incentive that would have motivated the skilled artisan to modify a reference or combined references. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In Re Wilson*, 165 U.S.P.Q. 494, 496 (C.C.P.A. 1970); *Amgen v. Chugai Pharmaceuticals Co.*, 927 U.S.P.Q.2d, 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1996).

The Examiner explains on pages 2 and 3 of the present Office Action that although Mazis does not specifically teach the first lamp holder having a pipe shape or being made of rubber, Saito teaches a lamp holder (9) in FIGS. 1-7 having a pipe-shape and comprising of rubber. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the lamp assembly of Mazis to incorporate the pipe-shaped lamp holder of Saito to provide greater security to the fluorescent lamps, as well as prevent luminance

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drop via suppressing heat radiation at the electrode portions of the fluorescent lamps so as to secure a sufficient amount of mercuric vapor in the whole of said lamps [see Abstract of Saito].

However, it is respectfully submitted that the lamp system of Mazis includes a connector 40 installed on the molded plastic plate 27 (not the board 44) to electrically connect the board 44 to the electrode of the lamp (see FIGS. 3 and 4 of Mazis). In contrast, the lamp assembly of the present invention includes a connector installed on the first board to electrically connect the first board to an inverter that generates the first discharge voltage.

Neither Mazis nor Saito teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, a first board that makes contact with the first lamp holder, the first board having a flat plate shape and being coupled to the first electrode to provide the first electrode with the first discharge voltage; and a first connector installed on the first board to electrically connect the first board to an inverter that generates the first discharge voltage, as recited in amended Claims 1 and 29. Thus, Claims 1 and 29, including claims depending therefrom, i.e., Claims 2-14 and 30-35, define over Mazis in view of Saito.

Furthermore, with regard to Claims 2 and 29, it is respectfully noted that the lamp system of Mazis includes a board 44 including the contact point 46 (not the through-holes) formed on the body (see FIGS. 3 and 4 of Mazis). In contrast, the lamp assembly of the present invention includes a first board including the through-holes formed on the insulated body.

Neither Mazis nor Saito teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, at least two first through-holes formed on the first insulated body, each of the first through-holes receiving the first electrode of each of the lamps, as in Claim 2 and amended Claim 29. Thus, Claims 2 and 29, including claims depending therefrom, i.e., Claims 3-14 and 30-35, define over Mazis in view of Saito for this reason as well.

Accordingly, reconsideration under § 103(a) and allowance of Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13 is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mazis in view of Saito as applied to Claims 3 and 9 above, and Claim 31 is rejected over Mazis in view of Saito as applied to Claim 30 above, all further in view of Park, U.S. Patent 6,050,704

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(hereinafter "Park"). Claims 29, 30 and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mazis in view of Saito. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Dependent claims inherit all of the limitations of the respective parent claim.

Claims 4, 10 and 29-34 variously depend from Claims 1 and 29. As discussed above, Mazis and Saito do not teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, at least all of the limitations of at least amended Claims 1 and 29. Park also does not teach at least all of the limitations of amended Claims 1 and 29. Therefore, Park does not remedy the deficiencies of Mazis and Saito with respect to amended Claims 1 and 29. Accordingly, Mazis, Saito and Park do not teach all of the limitations of Claims 4, 10 and 29-34.

Since Mazis, Saito and Park, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of at least Claims 4, 10 and 29-34, *prima facie* obviousness does not exist regarding Claims 4, 10 and 29-34 with respect to the Mazis, Saito and Park patents.

Additionally, since Mazis, Saito and Park fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claims 4, 10 and 29-34, clearly, one of ordinary skill at the time of Applicants' invention would not have a motivation to modify or combine the references, or a reasonable likelihood of success in forming the claimed invention by modifying or combining the references. Thus, here again, *prima facie* does not exist.

Thus, *prime facie* obviousness does not exist regarding Claims 4, 10 and 29-34 with respect to the Mazis, Saito and Park patents. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4, 10 and 29-34 are not further rejected or objected and are therefore allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 4, 10 and 29-34 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

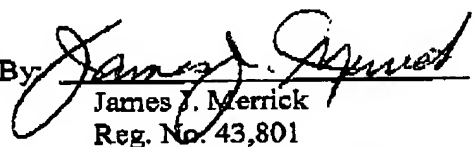
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

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In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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